

For Immediate Release

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This bill will create or save 3.5 million jobs, make investments in health, education, and infrastructure to improve conditions today and in the future.

Washington, D.C. Today, Congressman Albio Sires voted in favor of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. After the House and Senate conference committee reported out the final conference report Thursday, the House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 246 to 183.

"This bill will create or save 100,000 jobs in New Jersey, with 7,800 jobs in the 13th district alone," said Sires. "While not a perfect bill, I could not vote against these jobs and the families who will benefit from this bill."

The bill will cost \$790 billion and make critical investments in infrastructure and transportation, education, health care, and it will help small businesses and families by lowering their tax burden. Additionally, the bill provides unprecedented oversight, accountability, and transparency to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested effectively, efficiently, and as quickly as possible. Specifically, the bill: Health

- Invests \$17 billion nationwide in health information technology, growing jobs in this critical sector. This investment will reduce health care costs and improve the health care for all Americans.
- Helps families who lost their job and cannot afford their health insurance COBRA premiums by offering a subsidy on those premiums.

Education

- Invests \$39.5 billion to local school districts to prevent layoffs among school staff, for school modernization efforts, and other repairs to existing school building.
- Improves school affordability by increasing Pell Grants by \$500, improving work study and Perkins loan availability, and increasing our investment in job training programs for those seeking a new career.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Invests \$27.5 billion in highways, \$8.4 billion in public transportation, \$1.3 billion for air transportation, and \$9.3 billion for rail transportation.
- \$2.25 billion for housing development at the local level through the HOME program and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, creating more housing for families and more development for the local economy.

Tax Relief for the Middle Class and Small Business

- Invests in working families by temporarily eliminating tax withholding in their paycheck for 95 percent of Americans.
- Tax deductions for the purchase of a first home or new car, and a temporary fix to the Alternative Minimum Tax hitting more middle-class families every year.
- Temporarily lowers small business estimated tax payments in 2009“I am happy to go back to my district and tell my constituents that the government acted swiftly and decisively to help them make it through this economic crisis,” Sires noted.

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